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THE PATRIOTIC PISTOL.

Carefully collected statistics show that we sacrifice over 4,000 lives every year in celebrating the Fourth of July, says the Call. Most of these are victims of the toy pistol, an incendiary and infernal machine for making noise and causing lockjaw. There is a general movement to outlaw this weapon as a means of manifesting patriotic fervor. No doubt it will be effectually suppressed, but that will not end the slaughter on the Fourth.

There are other deadly contrivances, such as cannon crackers, bombs and other fire vomiting, noise belching devices called volcanoes and by other names that imply destruction that will fill the void made by the destructive pistol. The law, hand in hand with common sense, should follow up the work of abolishing these disturbers of the peace and destroyers of life, until the anniversary of our independence ceases to be a time of terror and apprehension and becomes a pleasant, patriotic day of national enjoyment, as it ought to be. Americans have run away with the fireworks idea by degenerating it to the service of mere noise. In this we imitate the Chinese in all but their conservatism.

They celebrate New Year's or bring a new dragon to town with much ceremony and firecrackering, but they know how to produce the glad popping of powder without taking life or setting fire to buildings. We do both and feel that we have had a halcyon and vociferous time only when we have scared nervous people into convulsions, killed a number of small boys, set fire to ladies' skirts by throwing cannon crackers at their feet, put out many eyes by powder explosions and burned a number of buildings on the altar of liberty. As the movement against the toy pistol is general all over the country, we will await the statistics of casualties with interest to see if it has diminished the slaughter of the day.

The Spanish war was in culmination on the 4th of July. We were before Santiago, and beset that last stronghold of the empire of Philip II on our independence day. But we killed more people celebrating than were killed on both sides in all that war. We did it having fun, as some people call it. We should learn to have fun without giving so much employment to surgeons, undertakers and grave diggers.

REPUBLICANS AND CURRENCY REFORM.

The omission in the republican national platform of all reference to the subject of currency reform is presumably, to some extent, an act of political strategy, says the New York Commercial. The only allusion which that document makes to the money question is to declare "it to be the duty of the republican party to uphold the gold standard and the integrity and value of our national currency." The republican platform of four years ago, it will be recalled, virtually committed the republican party to a reconstruction of the present currency system.

There can be no doubt that President Roosevelt regards that pledge to be still binding on him and on his party. Only last winter, in his report to congress, Secretary Shaw called attention again to the necessity of a currency system that would be more responsive to the "varying needs of seasons and of localities and of changing conditions of business;" and he urged congress to take some action to this end. The trouble has been, however, that it has been impossible to devise a system on which all republicans could agree, and under these circumstances it was probably useless to try to force a currency-reform measure through congress. Candor compels it to be added that there is a considerable republican element in the west that is hostile to an "asset-currency" system, and apparently it was from fear of offending that element that the present platform is silent on the subject of currency reform.

Should President Roosevelt be elected and the republicans secure a good working majority in the house of representatives—they will undoubtedly have such a majority in the senate—there is every reason to believe that the next congress will be hospitable to the project for currency reform and will pass a satisfactory bill of this kind. Certain it is, at any rate, that no measure of this description can be expected from the democrats. Most of the

latter are opposed to all issues of paper currency other than by the government, and they have a special antipathy against national banks—or have had, at least.

THERE IS BUT ONE FLAG.

There is but one flag for representation of the United States of America. That flag consists of a blue field with 13 stripes of red and white, alternating, and with each state of the imperishable union represented by a star upon the blue field—the colors of the heavens and the symbol of freedom and strength, says the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune. There is no other flag, and there can not be. Therefore, the design of Professor Arnett of Wilberforce, for a flag for the negro will come to nothing. The constitution of the United States has made the negro an American citizen, and the flag of the United States is his flag, as it is the flag of the whole people.

Professor Arnett says that "every nation has a flag but the negro." He is incorrect in that statement. The African nations have flags and follow them, as other peoples and nations have flags, but there can be but one flag for the United States. It has been good enough for all citizens for more than a century and a quarter and will be good enough for all years to come. But there is another objection. Professor Arnett would have the flag of the negro with a "staff of weeping willow, to commemorate the fact that women and children once knelt and prayed under weeping willow trees. A black border will be appropriate to symbolize the color. In the center will be the pictures of five representative colored men who stand for the enlightenment of the people," and he believes the adoption of the flag would "solve the race question."

There is little of logic in his belief and there is no race question save as intemperate men of either race may choose to force its existence. The fact is that the adoption of the flag of the negro would tend to raise rather than to kill the question of race. The flag of the United States is good enough to protect him.

EARTH FIRE WALLS.

The value of earthen fire walls separating the different wharves and roadways along the water front was demonstrated in the fire which destroyed a portion of the lumber yard of the Stetson & Post Milling Company, says the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. All that saved the fire from getting beyond control was the fact that an embankment of earth prevented its spreading under the roadways, piling and wharves, where it could not be reached, to the property lying to the southward.

The converse of this was seen in the great fire which destroyed the business portion of Seattle 15 years ago. The fire might have been handled and suppressed before it had done its greatest damage, were it not for the fact that the roadways leading down to the wharves, from First avenue, were all of planking on capped piling, with large open spaces running the full width of the street. In these passage ways there were masses of clabs, rubbish and other inflammable debris, on which a fire could feed, and where it was impossible to get at it.

It is shown now that the sooner every street and roadway on the tide lands is filled in with earth solidly, the easier will be the task of dealing with fires that originate in that part of town. The knowledge might very well be applied practically to the improvement of the safety of the manufacturing district, wherein a great proportion of the population of the city earns its livelihood.

The restoration of the famous Stadium of Athens begun in 1895, with funds given by a Greek merchant, has progressed until they are now placing the last of the 52,000 marble seats which the great amphitheater contains. The seats, railings, etc., are all of the creamy white Pentelikon marble. It is the intention of the committee having the restoration in charge to build a marble propylaea, or entrance, resembling the ancient one. Some urge the finishing of the outer walls of the Stadium by surmounting them with a marble colonnade. When the propylaea will be commenced is not known.

Alexander Sutherland, the man who led the charge of the famous Light brigade at Balaklava, is living in the city of Denver, Col. He is 94 years of age, but has expressed a desire to attend the St. Louis fair, in response to an invitation received from the school children of that city. As the bugler of the brigade, Mr. Sutherland led the charge at the command of the earl of Cardigan, and was one of the 150 heroes who returned from the field of carnage.

Japanese soldiers carry with them kettles made of thin paper—the invention of one Daiju. The kettle upon being filled with water and the outside surface dampened is hung over the fire; in 10 minutes the water is boiling. A kettle costs only two cents, and can be used eight or 10 times.

We find some difficulty in getting cheery over Dr. Dowie's declaration that he prefers the United States to either England or Australia.

FORGETS HIS WEDDING DAY.

With Assistance of Sister-in-Law, However, All is Made Right.

He was astonished when his 16-year-old sister-in-law walked into his office in the Townsend building.

"What is it?" he inquired.

"Margery," was her brief response.

"Good heavens! Has anything happened?" he exclaimed, jumping from his chair and closing the door.

"She was all right when I left Montclair this morning."

"Yes," with a sorrowful shake of the head, "but she's up at ma's now crying to break her heart."

"What the deuce—?"

"It's the first anniversary of your wedding day. You did not mention it. You even forgot to kiss her."

"So I did, so I did," he remarked sorrowfully. "But what is to be done? Here! I can take the day off. You run home and tell her you and I had been planning a little surprise; that it was all arranged yesterday. Tell her," he continued, almost deliriously, "that you commanded me to keep quiet for fear of spoiling it. Get me out of this scrape, Bertha, and that ring we talked about is—"

"Why tell her that?" asked the demure sister-in-law.

"Don't you see?" he continued, excitedly. "While you are going up home—and you needn't hurry—I will buy a little present on the way to the ferry. There's a man in the ferry-house who sells flowers. By the time you get home—"

"No use," she interrupted. "She has closed the house and sent the servant away for the day."

"Great Jehonaphath!" he shouted. "Poor little Margery. I am a brute."

"I have a plan," said sweet sixteen, tentatively.

"What is it?"

"I did tell her you and I had planned a surprise."

"You angel! What's your plan?"

"I told her I had intended going to your house this morning and bring her over for a quiet anniversary little dinner at ma's. But that you would happen along about noon with a coach, and that you and she and ma and I would go to the races."

"Great Scott!"

"And I told her that instead of the dinner at ma's we would dine at some nice place you knew and go to the theater afterward."

"Anything else?"

"No," said sweet sixteen, "except that I think I ought to get that ring."

"I'll bring it with me when I come with the coach. Bertha, you're a darling."

"Margery dear," he said that night, "you have forgiven me, haven't you?"

"I suppose I must," she replied; "we have had such a delightful time."

"And Bertha is a little brick, Margery!" Then he confessed.

"I knew it, dear," said Margery, sweetly, "I sent her to your office. She showed me the ring."—New York Times.

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TIME TABLE T. J. POTTER

DATE	Leave PORTLAND	Arrive Astoria	Leave Astoria	Arrive Duane Dock	Leave Duane Dock	Arrive Portland
Tues. July 5	9:00 am	3:00	3:00	4:15	7:30	8:45
Wed. " 6	9:00 am	3:00	3:00	4:15	8:00	9:15
Thurs. " 7	9:00 am	3:00	3:00	4:15	8:00	9:15
Friday " 8	9:45 am	3:45	3:45	5:00	8:00	9:15
Sat. " 9	1:00 pm	7:00	7:00	8:15	8:00	9:15
Sun. " 10	8:00	9:15

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